Application No.: 10/750,766

Amendment dated: January 3, 2005

Reply to Office Action of: October 5, 2004

<u>REMARKS</u>

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication by the Examiner that

claims 2-5 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in

independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. While Applicants

believe that the claims rejected over the prior art are equally allowable, the claims have

been restricted to the indicated allowable subject matter in an effort to expedite the

prosecution to early allowance.

Accordingly, to place the application in condition for allowance, claim 1 has been

amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 2. That is, claim 2 has in

effect been rewritten as claim 1. Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance. Claim 2

has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer as redundant.

Allowable claims 3, 4 and 5 have been amended to depend from claim 1 rather

than canceled claim 2. Claims 3, 4 and 5 are now in condition for allowance.

The prior art rejections of claims 1 and 6-8 have been carefully considered but

are most respectfully traversed in view of the amendments to the claims. The

limitations of allowable claim 2 has been included in claim 1 placing claim 1 in condition

for allowance.

Claims 6-8 depend directly on an allowable claim and are therefore are equally

in condition for allowance. All of the claims remaining in the application are in fully

compliance with 35 USC 112 and are clearly patentable over the references of record.

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In view of the above amendments, reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims now present in the application is most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted, BACON & THOMAS, PLLC

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